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# A Friendly Compromise

THEATRES in Ontario and in Toronto have had a blizzard to contend with which snowed-in box-offices to such an extent that we longed for the dog-days of Summer.

Toronto's theatres situated in the North of the City were practically shut off from traffic. It was impossible to use cars, most difficult to get street-cars or busses; and those who ventured out on foot did a little spontaneous skiing; as for motorists many had accidents or narrow escapes.

These are some of the things which always happen to exhibitors and at this season, just before the rush of Christmas buying, the latter which cuts off theatre receipts considerably.

However, exhibitors, like Londoners, "can take it". They, the exhibitors, know that their whole business and life is built up on a Tomorrow which may be the Day of Hope fulfilled, and that is what keeps them in Show Business.

The new tax had its reaction, also. What its reaction on Hollywood may be, we do not know, but the ban of American Imports which prevents its greatest buyers, women, from buying those commodities which give the U.S. producers great profits, may make finance even more difficult for picture production.

This may, however, be offset by the tremendous English buying of War Supplies; and the stimulus which the gigantic War orders has given to employment. Many of the circuits in the U.S. have producing-distributing affiliations; and greater theatre attendance through greater spending power may find the capital which it requires from its own Industry for production purposes.

The Canadian banning of many U.S. periodicals will make the Movie Material, presented in story form, or in advertisements of no value to the U.S. advertisers here.

The tax and tariff highlights introduced by the Minister of Finance, The Hon. J. L. Ilsley, Tuesday, December 3rd, and effective as from that day, cover complete prohibition of imports, except from sterling nations, of prepared cereals; flowers; processed and canned fruits and vegetables excepting currants, raisins, dates, apricots and grapefruit juice; preserved fish; manufactured tobacco, spirits and wines; certain fiction magazines and comics; consumers paper items; perfumes; China and silverware; electrical household appliances; bathroom fixtures; automobiles; sporting goods, cameras, furniture, radios, phonographs; musical instruments; luggage, finished clothing, silks; ornaments; jewelry; toys and numerous miscellaneous items. Importation by permits gradually diminishing in number of unmanufactured tobacco; motor vehicles other than passenger autos; hardwoods, veneers and plywood; raw silk and some partially manufactured forms of natural silk, but not synthetic fibres; all petroleum products.

An increase to 20 per cent. in the excise tax on autos up to $900; to 40 per cent. on autos from $900 to $1,200, and to 80 per cent. on autos over $1,200. An excise tax of 25 per cent. of the factory price on radios and tubes; phonographs, cameras, slot machines, electric and gas stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, light fixtures, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, toasters, grills, irons and ironers, coffee makers, curlers, razors, and a number of minor items.

The complete suspension of the present tariff against the United Kingdom on all cottons, artificial silk, bituminous coal, jellies, jams, furniture, gloves, mittens. Reduction of tariffs from the United Kingdom on medicinal supplies, soap, tiles, stone and earthenware, table cutlery, bicycles, generators, transformers, motors, rugs, carpets, oil cloth and linoleum.

We understand that this "baby budget" is but a beginning, for the measures which the Canadian Government has taken up to the present time to hold down the difference between Canada's receipts and payments of Foreign Exchange, have been counteracted by the increased purchases of wartime imports from the U.S. Canadian imports from the U.S. have increased from $40,000,000 per month before the war to an average of $65,000,000 a month during the last six months with $74,000,000 for the month of October. Canadian exports increased from $27,000,000 monthly pre-war to $40,000,000 a month recently.

—Editor.

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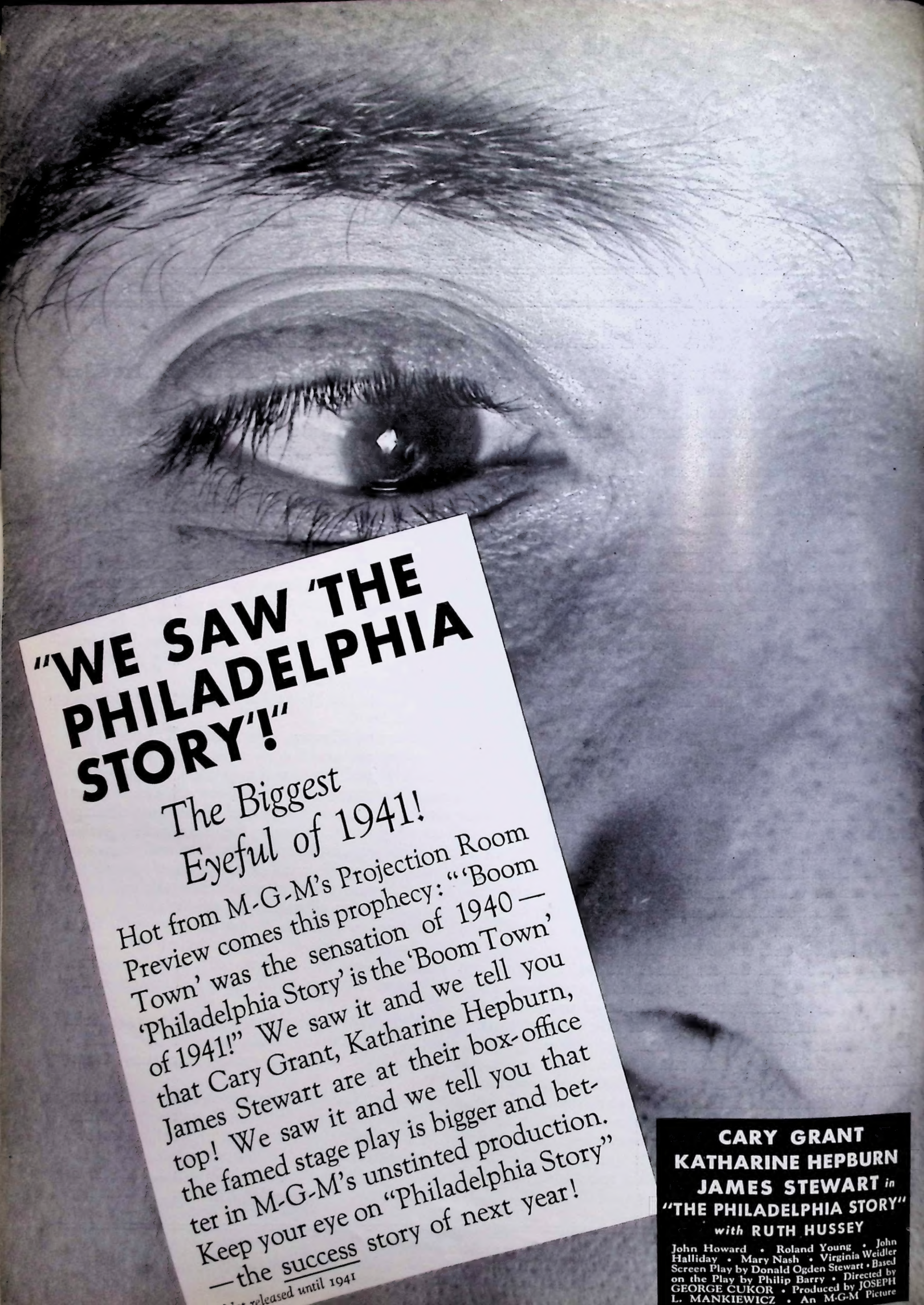
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# RAY PRESENTS

THE Canadian Motion Picture Industry is growing stronger in its determination to be among the leading industries of Canada which are giving their country and the Empire the best of themselves.

We know without presenting our case by way of making an argument that a nation under arms cannot retain its strength and the necessary discipline which makes perfection of service by developing a one-track mind, regardless of the fact that the all-consuming idea and purpose at the present time is to WIN THE WAR.

*An army is made up of people, of individuals, so are all the industries which supply what is termed the man-power and tissues of war. We know that men and women who grow so serious over their ambition, their ideal, or job, forgetting how to play and forgetting how to laugh, cannot keep up the tempo of enthusiasm and creative ability which can climb the mountains as the Greeks did barefooted in snow, to achieve a victory.*

*We, of Motion Pictures, were born for one particular purpose in life; and that purpose is to Entertain. All the other developments of our business, such as Wall Street affiliations, the latter represented by Finance which made this symbol of Entertainment, Motion Pictures, a world-wide Industry, have nothing to do with the real excuse or purpose of our existence.*

SOME people have a good time when they are able to get away from their own business, from home life, from ideals or their own thoughts. Some people have a good time when they can lose themselves in the tragedies of others, thereby comparing their own mountain of woes, which by comparison become as a mole or a little hill. Some enjoy a good cry, some enjoy a good laugh. All of these human reactions to what Motion Pictures have to offer may be summed up under the caption of Entertainment.

*That is our job in the theatre and to do that job well there is preparatory work which must involve a good deal of our time and energies, physical and mental. And yet, life is more serious at this time in history than we who live in these times have ever known. Even those who push worry and thought away from them, steeling themselves throughout life to ride the waves rather than plough through them for the enjoyment of combat, find that the cross currents of life have created such a whirlpool that no one can ride the waves today. Every human who is even but one stage above the animal in thinking power must realize that life on this planet, called Earth, is being revolutionized, that Chaos prevails from earth to that roof of the earth which we call the skies.*

*The seasons are disrupted, where there was sunshine there is snow, where there is snow there are floods, the very Elements appear to be at war each with the other; and there are conjunctions of stars, not movie stars, but stars in the heavens such as humans have not seen for centuries, even for close to two thousand years.*

*We casually refer to stars in the heavens as guiding the destiny of man; and yet our Bible and our philosophies are veined with the relationship of Man to Stars. As we approach Christmas time with its story of the Star of Bethlehem and the birth of Christianity, we are told that the stars which were seen by the Three Wise Men at that time are now to be seen in the heavens. Some of us believe that a new Humanity is soon to be born, that we shall be delivered from the lawlessness which has prevailed, and that men will begin to better understand what is worthwhile in life, that Service nationally, internationally, and as between man to man must prevail in order that Peace may be established on earth.*

NEWS reaches The Digest that at London, Ont., the managers there have formed a London Theatre Managers' Association, which includes Patricia, Grand, Loew's, Capitol, Centre, Rex, Elmwood, Palace Theatres. At the bottom of the letterhead are these words, "The Motion Picture — Education — Inspiration and Entertainment".

*Now that there is a War Job to do this association is doing it as a unit. In order to cooperate with the Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee which presented the Rodeo Show at the Coliseum, Toronto, and through which show £5,000 was sent to the Lord Mayor's Fund, for Distressed Air Raid Victims, this London Managers' Association collected funds and gave a concert contributing $611 to the Lord Mayor's Fund. The managers felt that they could not sell tickets as was done at Toronto, and they wanted to "do their bit". When the Red Cross campaign and Second War Loan Drive was on, the London Managers' Association worked as a unit to give these War Service mediums the best results.*

*Entertainment, yes, but War Service for an Industry which has a direct contact with millions of people daily, is a Service to our government, to the Empire, to all nations who still believe in Human Rights, which we of Motion Pictures must organize ourselves to give. Hollywood is not at War, but we in Canada are, fighting for our right to live; and everything we do in Motion Pictures, everything we serve through Motion Pictures must have back of its Entertainment front an Army equipped for War Service.*

THEATRES will soon be giving their co-operation to Churches and various organizations which are going to make this Christmas a better Christmas than ever, many who have War Guests to look after, and refugees, many who have men in uniform to entertain, and their families to cheer up, because it may be that the male member of the family who was the Santa Claus last year is this year on Active Service. Theatres will be utilized to collect goods, clothes, to raise funds and provide good cheer.

(*Continued on Page* 5)

## Arthur Kelly, Vice-Pres. United Artists, States Canadian Manager Haskell Masters, "Considered For Post With Broader Duties"

# London Theatre Managers' Association Successful Idea

## JOIN FORCES TO INCREASE WAR SERVICES

Toronto, Ont. — The theatre managers of the city of London, Ontario, have formed the London Theatre Managers' Association, with W. K. Trudell, Chairman, and J. W. Whitehouse, Secretary-Treasurer.

The Members of the Association are as follows: Tom H. McKnight, Patricia Theatre; J. P. Simmons, Palace Theatre; F. B. Jackson, Loew's Theatre; David Ziff, Elmwood Theatre; Jack Whitehouse, Centre Theatre; W. K. Trudell, Capitol and Grand Theatres, and Ernest Parker, Rex Theatre.

The only organization comprised of all theatre managers in one city, the L.T.M.A. was formed a short time ago, and the object of the club is to "create new interest in the motion picture industry, and to be in a position to give the Motion Picture War Services Committee concerted co-operation in their War activities".

The London Free Press, has co-operated splendidly with the group in their work, and a special moving picture news column headed, "At The Theatre", appears each day in the Free Press, sponsored by the L.T.M.A., and containing news, advertising, etc. re motion pictures.

We quote a portion from a feature article on the London Theatre Manager Association, which the Free Press published:

"One of the best-known achievements of the association was the fine record which London theatres showed when they co-operated in the sale of war saving stamps this summer. As a result of their hard work and earnest effort, London stood well up among the leading cities in sales of the stamps. Then there was the Red Cross Drive. Later in the season they co-operated with the London Retail Merchants, Association by offering special attractions during the week of the Harvest Festival, thus largely contributing to the success of that venture. Right now they are engaged in doing everything in their power to promote the success of the current Community Chest Drive.

"Probably few people have any conception of the contribution which the London theatres have made to the community. All this, however, is in line with the policy of the London Theatre Managers' Association, which takes pride in its contribution to the community, and feels that, representing the industry as it does, it has a moral responsibility in this connection."

The latest successful effort on the part of the London Theatre Managers' Association was the holding of a Sunday evening concert, through which they raised $611.00 for the Lord Mayor of London's Fund for British War Relief (Distressed Air Raid Victims), and which they sent through the Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee, along with the returns from the Rodeo Show in Toronto. The London theatre managers felt that they were too far away from Toronto to sell many tickets for the Rodeo Show, but they wanted to aid the Lord Mayor's Fund and therefore raised money through a Sunday night concert.

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**Shown above are the members of the London Theatre Managers' Association. Top row, left to right: T. H. McKnight, Patricia Theatre; P. J. Simmons, Palace Theatre; F. B. Jackson, Loew's Theatre. Bottom row, left to right: David Ziff, Elmwood Theatre; Jack Whitehouse, Centre Theatre, Secretary of the L.T.M.A.; W. K. Trudell, Capitol and Grand Theatres, Chairman of the L.M.T.A., and Ernest Parker, Rex Theatre.**

# No National Clearance Board To Be Established Now In Canada

## COMMITTEE WILL ESTABLISH ONTARIO BOARD

Toronto, Ont. — A meeting of the Motion Picture Branch of the Toronto Board of Trade took place on Friday, November 29th, and was attended by approximately 22 people.

Mr. Nat Taylor, Chairman of the Board, conducted the meeting. Messrs. Alf. Perry, J. P. O'Loghlin, Morris Milligan and Leo Devaney were present, representing the distributors. Messrs. N. L. Nathanson, T. J. Bragg and J. J. Fitzgibbons represented Famous Players, and in addition there were about ten independent exhibitors present.

There was much discussion in connection with the resolution passed last May, whereby a National Clearance Board, and Provincial Boards were to be established. Finally, it was decided that a National Board would not be established at the present time, but that a Provincial Clearance Board would be organized for the Province of Ontario. This Ontario Provincial Clearance Board is to consist of three representatives of the circuits, three representatives of unaffiliated theatres and two representatives of the distributors.

The organization meeting of this Committee will take place on Tuesday, December 10th, at the Board of Trade office.

The opinions expressed during the discussion on the establishment of the National Clearance Board were varied. It was felt that the Provincial Board could be experimented with, and as soon as it was in working order they could go ahead with other provincial boards, providing the Industry in the other provinces desired a Clearance Board.

### VIEW "WORLD IN FLAMES"

Ottawa, Ont. — Paramount's "The World In Flames", a feature film made up of newsreel shots which Paramount newsreel cameras have taken over a period of time, was shown to an audience composed of Senators, Members of Parliament, officers, etc., at the Regent Theatre recently.

The film opens with shots of 1929, the height of the boom, and covers the news highlights of the intervening years, finishing with Dunkerque and the Battle of Britain.

The Ottawa Citizen says the film is "a picture that all should see".

### BLIZZARD RUINS BUSINESS

Toronto, Ont. — Theatre business here has been very seriously affected by the weather. The worst snowfall in twenty-one years, covered Toronto more than a week ago, and continuous snowfalls and blizzards have made the roads impossible for traffic. It is estimated that only one out every five cars are being used by their owners. Business downtown has been the most seriously affected, but matinee business has been fair, owing to the afternoon Xmas-time shoppers. The city experienced its coldest December 3rd since 1857.

# Shooting the Stars

**"A Woman's Face"**, a dramatic story of a woman's fight for beauty and character, is **Joan Crawford's** new starring **Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer** film, with **Melvyn Douglas** and **Conrad Veidt** in leading featured roles. George Cukor will direct . . . **20th Century-Fox** has assigned **George Montgomery** and **Cobina Wright, Jr.**, society songstress who makes her film debut in "Murder Among Friends", to the leads in **"The Cowboy and the Blonde"** . . . **Jane Wyatt** has been signed by **Warner Bros.** for a leading part in **"She Stayed Kissed"**, in which **Dennis Morgan** has the principal role . . . **Henry Fonda** will be seen next in **"The Great American Broadcast"**, which will go before the cameras next month . . . **Edward G. Robinson** will next be seen in **"The Man They Couldn't Kill"** following completion of **"The Sea Wolf"** at the **Warner Bros. Studio** . . . **John Shelton** has been assigned the lead in **Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Four Cents A Word"**, comedy of a young Western stories author. . **Virginia Grey** plays the feminine lead . . . **Alexander Korda** will have his production **"Lady Hamilton"**, which features **Vivien Leigh** and **Laurence Olivier** ready for release soon . . . **"That Uncertain Feeling"**, starring **Merle Oberon** and **Melvyn Douglas**, will soon be released by **Sol Lesser** under the **United Artists** banner . . . From the studios of **David L. Loew** and **Albert Lewin** will come another U.A. release, **"So Ends Our Night"**, which is based on the Erich Maria Remarque novel, **"Flotsam"**. Starred in the film are **Fredric March, Margaret Sullavan** and **Frances Dee** . . . **Tyrone Power** has been assigned the leading role in **20th Century-Fox's "Blood and Sand"** . . . **James Stephenson**, whose performance in **"The Letter"**, has made him a top-ranking film personality, has been assigned with **Geraldine Fitzgerald** to the forthcoming **Warner Bros.** production, **"Winged Victory"**, a play by **A. J. Cronin.**

# RAY PRESENTS

(*Continued from Page 3*)

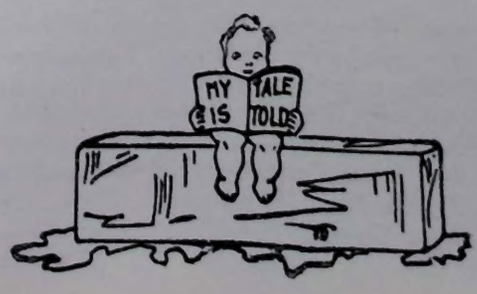
*I am inviting every theatre which is giving service, and I hope that every theatre will offer itself for service, to send The Digest a report of what it is doing.*

*I have said in previous editorials, and in Ray Presents, that our theatres give away millions of dollars yearly, but no one keeps the books, save in a general way, of what we give.*

*Every seat in our theatres cost money, every seat has a tax, our screen pays a tax, our marquee and signs pay a tax, our employees pay a tax, we pay a tax, in fact the very stones or bricks of our building pay a tax; and yet again and again we give all of that away free to some War Service, or charitable effort. Aside from the possible revenue which a seat in our theatre might bring in, we spend what that seat costs in War Service and Charity without computing what we give.*

*Frequently we hear of a company which gives away a fur coat, or an automobile, etc., to some War Service, or Welfare campaign; and the value of the gift is noted in dollars and cents. We who give our theatre for a free show mention only that the show raised or collected a certain amount of money, or furnished Entertainment for children, or soldiers, etc., etc. We do not mention that the theatre filled with paid admissions would represent two, or three or more hundred dollars to us; and that this sum is our contribution to whatever sum is collected.*

*I doubt whether there is any other Industry which gives as much and as continuously as we do, or as cheerfully. I am sending marked copies of The Digest weekly to certain departments of our Government. I feel that they should know what Motion Pictures in Canada is doing and giving, not only when it organizes a Drive for a big United Effort, but in the daily routine of its work.*



# "Escape" Excellent Entertainment --"Let George Do It" Another Formby Hit--"Zorro" Power's Best

## "ESCAPE"

**METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER**

THE combination of Norma Shearer, Robert Taylor and one of last year's best-selling novels is one that could not fail to mean the very tops in motion picture entertainment. When in addition you have the genius of Mervyn LeRoy as director, the box-office success is so assured that you could dust off the Held Over signs without even seeing the picture.

Timely, topical material is Ethel Vance's "Escape", and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer haven't missed a trick when it came to reproducing it for the screen. Suspense worthy of Hitchcock is evident at more than one exciting sequence.

Taylor plays the role of a young American, son of a German-born mother, who became a famous star on the American stage. He enters Germany searching for his mother, who has disappeared, after attempting to convert her real estate holdings in Germany into American dollars, a heinous crime in the eyes of the Nazi hierarchy. Tipped off that the actress is in custody, awaiting execution by the Germans, Taylor enlists the aid of family friends and retainers, and a mysterious Countess, played by Norma Shearer. The latter is the mistress of Conrad Veidt, a German general who can be sadistically cruel at times, but who shares his Fuehrer's fondness for Wagner. Finally the plan of escape is perfected, and in a thrill-packed climax, the mother is smuggled out of the concentration camp in a coffin, a phoney burial is held, and the mother and son are reunited and bound for America.

No attempt is made to whitewash the character of the Countess, although her assistance in effecting the escape of the actress, is her redeeming grace. Miss Shearer's performance is outstanding, and as for Robert Taylor, he also gives a good account of himself, following up his excellent performance in "Waterloo Bridge".

Heading the support is Alla Nazimova, one of the brightest stars of the silent pictures. Her performance in this picture makes one wonder just why the heck she has been absent from the screen for such a long time. Philip Dorn makes his American debut an auspicious one The young Hollander shows much promise for the future. Conrad Veidt's general is perfect to the smallest detail. Others in the cast include Albert Basserman — excellent as always — Bonita Granville, Felix Bressart, Blanche Yurka, Elsa Basserman and Edgar Barrier.

Running time—105 minutes.

## "LET GEORGE DO IT"

**ESQUIRE FILMS**

THAT man Formby is back again. The masculine Gracie Fields, who set Canada on its motion picture ear in "It's In The Air", returns with a new comedy, twice as funny, and with plenty of excitement to boot. In addition, "Let George Do It" was produced by Michael Balcon, who has been associated with a number of outstanding British productions including "The Citadel" and "A Yank At Oxford".

This one was produced after the war started, and naturally enough its theme is most timely and up-to-the-minute. In fact the highlight of the whole production comes when George hands one, Adolph the Hitler, a beautiful uppercut, right on the point of the jaw, while the onlooking Storm Troopers break out into loud applause. Unfortunately, it is only a dream, but isn't it a lovely idea?

George is a member of a concert group booked into Blackpool. He gets separated from the party and is mistaken for a British Secret Service agent, landing instead in Bergen, Norway. There he meets a lovely girl-spy, who is trying to discover how the German U-Boats are so successful at learning the sailing time and routes of British-bound merchantmen. Of course, George tries to lend a helping hand, and in his usual muddling manner goes from bad to worse until he winds up aboard a German submarine about to torpedo the ship carrying the beautiful girl-spy with whom George has fallen in love.

Formby has been given a better supporting cast than usual, headed by Phyllis Calvert as his would-be girl friend. Miss Calvert is both comely and clever, and has definite possibilities. Roney Brent, seen here in Toronto on the legitimate stage, and in numerous English films, does a very good bit, and Garry Marsh and Coral Browne are other notable supports. Formby sings three songs, accompanying himself on his banjolele, and also accompanied by the orchestra, of which Garry Marsh is conductor. The songs all very tuneful, are "Mr. Wu Is A Window Cleaner Now", "Oh, Don't Let The Wind Blow Cold", and "Count Your Blessings and Smile".

Business on "It's In The Air" was nothing short of phenomenal, and by all possible methods of comparison and reckoning, "Let George Do It" should do even better.

Directed by Marcel Varnel.

Running time—72 minutes.

## "THE MARK OF ZORRO"

**20th CENTURY-FOX**

SHADES of Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., or Zorro Rides Again! Yes, it's the same story that started the late Douglas Fairbanks on his meteoric career in pictures, and it's been done to a turn by a swell cast headed by Tyrone Power, Basil Rathbone and Linda Darnell. Old-timers will naturally want to compare it with the silent version, and yet such a comparison is, at the best, fantastic. Let it be said, however, that Power has done right by our Zorro, giving the character just the right amount of dash and fire, as well as romantic charm, at the same time doing right well by Mr. Power. It's his best role, we believe, since his first, "Lloyds of London", and is certain to send his box-office stock soaring to unprecedented heights.

The locale is laid in the days of old California, when that land of sunshine and citrus groves was under the rule of the Spanish. Returning from serving in the Spanish army in Spain, Power discovers that his father, Montagu Love, has been ousted as Mayor or Alcade of Los Angeles, by rascally J. Edward Bromberg, who with the help of the army under Basil Rathbone, is carrying on a reign of terror in the district, and bleeding the natives dry with taxes. Turning Robin Hood, with a rapier in place of a longbow, Power embarks on a one-man crusade to oust Bromberg, Rathbone and company, branding those of them he catches with a beautifully repulsive "Z" on their chests. Naturally, the campaign is successful, the villains are foiled once more — that is those who are still alive — and Power also gets the girl, Linda Darnell, who although a niece of Bromberg, think's he's a heel.

There's lots of hard riding, hard fighting, and some tender romantic passages. At all three, Tyrone Power stars. The duel between Power and Rathbone is the dramatic highlight of the production, and far surpasses in sheer excitement the duel between Errol Flynn and Rathbone in "Robin Hood". Both Rathbone and Bromberg make convincing villains, proving Bromberg is a very good actor, since we have become rather used to him in more kindly roles. Linda Darnell is lovely in old Spanish lace, mantilla, etc., and she and Power show to much better advantage together in this than their other co-starring appearances. Gale Sondergaard, Eugene Pallette, Robert Lowery, Janet Beecher and Chris-Pin Martin top the large supporting cast.

Directed by Rouben Mamoulian.

Running time—93 minutes.

# Seek To Legalize Sunday Showing Moving Pictures In Halifax

## REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Halifax, N.S. — The matter of Sunday shows is still an agitation at Halifax, N.S. This subject will be discussed at a meeting of the City Council at its regular meeting December 12th. Alderman G. S. Kinley gave notice in November of a motion that he would present at the December meeting a resolution "that arrangements be made to keep open theatres of Halifax at stated hours for the duration of the war."

It is reported that representations have been made to both the Provincial and Dominion Governments to allow the theatres to show pictures. The move was supported by a resolution passed some weeks ago by the Council of the Halifax Board of Trade. This resolution was passed on to Ottawa by A. H. Whitman of the Board of Trade Council asking that the law be changed to permit theatres to open in Military Districts. No definite word has been received to date, from the Federal authorities but correspondence on the matter is being continued.

The Halifax Ministerial Association is opposed to the move. Inquiries carried out by the Junior Board of Trade among theatre managers disclosed that they were willing to co-operate if Sunday openings were made lawful but managers did not favour the idea of collections being made at theatre doors.

The Lord's Day Act rules that "it shall be unlawful for any person on the Lord's Day except as provided in any Provincial Act now or hereafter, to engage in or be present at any performance or public meeting at which any fee is charged directly or indirectly either for admission to such performance or meeting or to any place within which the same is provided or any services or privilege thereat".

The ways in which the change could be made are:

1. Introduction of provincial legislation permitting such.

2. Agreement between the provincial government and the theatre operators, not to prosecute, (it is stated that this is the method which was carried out in the Province of Quebec).

3. Amendment of the Lord's Day Act by the Federal Government.

4. Provision for such under the War Measures Act.

The idea is mainly entertainment for troops and it is felt that particularly in the winter season a warm comfortable theatre would give the men amusement.

### EDDIE LYNN MARRIED

Sydney, N.S. — The marriage of E. R. (Eddie) Lynn of the Strand Theatre, Sydney, N.S., took place recently at Mulgrave, N.S., his bride being formerly Miss Rankin.

### ENGLISH PRODUCTION READY

London, Eng. — Daily air raids and bombings near the Teddington studios, have not interfered with completion of Warner Bros. co-starring production for John Gielgud and Diana Wynyard, "An Empire is Built". Picture is being shipped and will arrive in the United States Dec. 14, having been completed by Director Thorold Dickinson. Will Fyffe, Owen Nares and Fay Compton are other principals.

### N. W. MASON ILL

New Glasgow, N.S. — His many friends in the Industry will regret to learn that N. W. Mason, Dean of the Motion Picture Theatre Exhibitors of Nova Scotia, is ill at his home in New Glasgow, and has been confined to his home for over six weeks. All will wish genial "N.W." a speedy return to health.

### CENTURY ASSISTANT MANAGER

Hamilton, Ont. — Herbert Gildea has resigned from the Advertising Department of Hamilton Spectator, and has become assistant manager of the Century Theatre.

### MONARCH THEATRE ENLARGED

Medicine Hat, Alberta — The Monarch Theatre Company intends to spend $15,000 on enlarging and improving the Monarch Theatre. Work on the alterations is now underway. The seating capacity will be over 700, and new seats, equipment, etc., will be installed.

### RONALD FIELDING IN TORONTO

Saint John, N.B. — Ronald Fielding, son of A. A. Fielding, General Manager of the F. G. Spencer Company Ltd. and manager of the Strand Theatre, Saint John, N.B., has left for Toronto where he has accepted a position with the De Haviland Company, manufacturers of airplanes, of that city. Mr. Fielding was for some months acting as Manager of the Capitol Theatre, at Digby, N.S.

### M. J. O'BRIEN PASSES

Ottawa, Ont. — M. J. O'Brien, Pioneer railway man, passed away in his home at Renfrew, Ontario, at the age of 89. He was a man of immense wealth, and builder of the O'Brien Theatres in Renfrew, Pembroke, Almonte and Arnprior, operated by the Ottawa Valley Amusement Company. He was a member of the Senate for seven years.

### BUILDING WELLAND HOUSE

Welland, Ont.—The new Park Theatre, now under construction by Famous Players Corp., will be completed by May, it is expected. The theatre will seat 800, and will incorporate the latest in theatre design. Decision of Famous Players to build another theatre here, was based on the jump in the city's population in line with the increase in business and industries in Welland.

### YORK THEATRE OPENED

Victoria, B.C. — The Empire Theatre, on Government Street, has been reopened under the name of "York", and new projection and sound equipment has been installed. The front of the theatre is being remodelled. The theatre, which seats 900, was first opened 25 years ago, when it was known as the Pantages Theatre. It is being operated by David Theatres Limited.

### MERLINA TAKES OVER BERFORD

Toronto, Ont. — The Berford Theatre, Wiarton, has been taken over by Sam Merlina, who operates the Uptown Theatre, Orangeville. Mr. Merlina will operate the Uptown, until January, when his brother James, will assume the management.

### NEW FORT WILLIAM HOUSE

Toronto, Ont. — Famous Players Corp. will build a new theatre in Fort William this spring, according to that company's announcement in reply to a representation from the Fort William Chamber of Commerce.

### ANOTHER B & L THEATRE

Sydney, N.S.—The Strand Theatre, Sydney, N.S. — has been added to the B & L Chain of theatres in the Maritimes. Messrs. Bernstein and Lieberman have theatres in many parts of the two provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Their friends will wish them success in this new move. The Strand, a theatre of 689 seats was formerly operated by E. R. Lynn. The theatre will be remodelled and redecorated in the most up-to-date style.

### NEW VICTORIA THEATRE

Victoria, B.C. — Famous Players Corporation has announced that the company will build a theatre to cost approximately $200,000, on Yates Street between Douglas and Blanshard Streets. The theatre will have an entrance on Yates Street, and will be among the most modern in Canada.

### "MY FAVOURITE WIFE"

Toronto, Ont. — The marquee of the Belsize Theatre, Yonge Street, read as follows: "My Favourite Wife" "I Married A Nazi".

### FILM GIRLS ASSIST LEAGUE

Saint John, N.B. — Members of the Film Girls Patriotic Club are assisting in the Navy League drive for memberships, and have met evenings to give clerical help to the Committee who are most grateful for this patriotic effort.

### CLUB SPONSORS FILMS

Cut Knife, Sask.—Just a little over a year ago a co-operative association, the Sponsors' Club, was formed here to give the community a weekly picture show at reasonable prices. At a recent meeting, with P. L. Margot as chairman, the 11 months operations were reviewed, showing that 50 contract pictures of a good type have been exhibited to an attendance of 16,879 adults and children. In addition the Royal Visit film was shown and $90 worth of war savings stamps sold at a free show.

A vote of appreciation was extended to H. J. Foster, who brought the idea originally to Cut Knife, and to the officers and directors. H. J. Foster was elected honorary president and the following directors, R. J. Dion, P. L. Margot and A. E. Finley for a two-year term; L. J. Forest and C. A. Barsaloux were elected for a one-year term.

### ON CALL FOR RCNVR

Regina, Sask. — Charles Stanfield and Joe Schacter of the Roxy Theatre staff have enrolled with the RCNVR and are awaiting call. George Sinclair, operator, has already been called by the navy.

### FILM SOCIETY TROUBLES

Ottawa, Ont. — The National Film Society here has sent out letters to its old members asking them to join the society, and pointing out that their response will determine the future policy of the club, and whether the Society will be able to continue this year. Due to war conditions some difficulties have arisen in respect to the renting of films, and new memberships.

### THOMAS BAKER PASSES

New York, N.Y. — Thomas A. Baker, formerly of Toronto, head of the New York theatrical agency by the same name, died here recently. He was 70 years of age.

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### JACK ZAITZOW IN WINNIPEG

Melville, Sask. — Jack Zaitzow, manager of the Princess Theatre here for the past 13 years, has turned over the managership of the house to Fred Gray, theatre's projectionist. Zaitzow, together with his wife and family, has moved to Winnipeg where he will handle the bookings for the house.

### GUILD JOINS CONSOLIDATED

Toronto, Ont. — The Guild Theatre, Gerrard Street East, this week joined the theatres advertising under the Consolidated Theatres column in the daily papers. The theatre is operated by Mr. Hyman Rotenberg.

### KERSHAW IN REGINA

Regina, Sask. — Frank Kershaw, district manager of Famous Players Canadian Corp., Calgary, was a recent visitor.

### FILM "LITTLE NORWAY"

Montreal, Que. — Roy Tash, newsreel cameraman of ASN covered "Little Norway" for the newsreels. His story will reveal the efforts of a gallant band of fliers at a special air training station near Toronto who are preparing to lend a hand in the fight to liberate their people from the yoke of Nazi domination.

### BORLAND IN VANCOUVER

Prince Rupert, B.C.—Dave Borland, manager of the Capitol Theatre here, returned following a two weeks' stay in Vancouver.

### "IRENE" DOES BIG BUSINESS

Sydney, N.S. — The RKO feature, "Irene", showed to capacity business at the Strand Theatre, Sydney, with a six day engagement.

## Trans-Canada Showings

### TORONTO

**AVENUE**
2nd week. "Beyond Tomorrow" (RKO Radio), with Charles Winninger, C. Aubrey Smith, Maria Ouspenskaya, Richard Carlson and Jean Parker, also "Earl of Puddlestone" (Empire-Universal), with the Gleason Family.

**IMPERIAL**
"The Mark of Zorro" (20th Century-Fox), with Tyrone Power, Linda Darnell and Basil Rathbone.

**LOEW'S**
2nd week. "Escape" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Norma Shearer and Robert Taylor.

**SHEA'S**
"Kit Carson" (United Artists), with Jon Hall and Lynn Bari, also "Father Is A Prince" (First National), with Grant Mitchell and Nana Bryant.

**UPTOWN**
"Let George Do It" (Esquire Films), with George Formby.

### SAINT JOHN

**CAPITOL**
"Lucky Partners" (RKO Radio), with Ronald Colman and Ginger Rogers.

**STRAND**
"They Drive By Night" (Warner Bros.) with George Raft, Ann Sheridan, Ida Lupino and Humphrey Bogart.

### MONTREAL

**CAPITOL**
"They Knew What They Wanted" (RKO Radio), with Charles Laughton, Carole Lombard and William Gargan, also "I'm Still Alive" (RKO Radio), with Kent Taylor and Linda Hayes.

**LOEW'S**
2nd week. "Escape" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Norma Shearer and Robert Taylor.

**ORPHEUM**
"A Little Bit of Heaven" (Universal), with Gloria Jean, Robert Stack and Hugh Herbert, also "Love, Honor and Oh-Baby" (Universal), with Wallace Ford and Mona Barrie.

**PALACE**
"Arise My Love" (Paramount), with Claudette Colbert and Ray Milland.

**PRINCESS**
"Angels Over Broadway" (Columbia), with Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Rita Hayworth and Thomas Mitchell, also "Nobody's Children" (Columbia), with Edith Fellows and Lois Wilson.

### WINNIPEG

**CAPITOL**
"Third Finger, Left Hand" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Myrna Loy and Melvyn Douglas.

**GAIETY**
"North West Mounted Police" (Paramount), with Gary Cooper and Madeleine Carroll.

**GARRICK**
"The Long Voyage Home" (United Artists), with John Wayne, Thomas Mitchell and Ian Hunter.

**METROPOLITAN**
"Brigham Young, Frontiersman" (20th Century-Fox), with Tyrone Power and Linda Darnell, also "Youth Will Be Served" (20th Century-Fox), with Jane Withers.

### CALGARY

**CAPITOL**
"Hired Wife" (Universal), with Brian Aherne, Rosalind Russell and Robert Benchley.

**PALACE**
"Kit Carson" (United Artists), with Jon Hall and Lynn Bari, also "Military Academy" (Columbia), with Bobby Jordan and Tommy Kelly.

**STRAND**
"Young Tom Edison" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Mickey Rooney, Fay Bainter and George Bancroft, also Ladies Must Live" (Warner Bros.), with Wayne Morris, Rosemary Lane and Roscoe Karns.

### VANCOUVER

**CAPITOL**
"Third Finger, Left Hand" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Myrna Loy and Melvyn Douglas.

**DOMINION**
"It's In The Air" (Esquire), with George Formby, also "Down Argentine Way" (20th Century-Fox), with Don Ameche, Betty Grable and Carmen Miranda.

**ORPHEUM**
"Night Train To Munich" (Regal Films), with Margaret Lockwood, Rex Harrison and Basil Radford, also "Public Deb No. 1" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with George Murphy and Brenda Joyce.

**PLAZA**
"A Little Bit of Heaven" (Universal), with Gloria Jean, Robert Stack, Hugh Herbert and C. Aubrey Smith.

**STRAND**
"Dr. Kildare Goes Home" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Lew Ayres, Lionel Barrymore and Laraine Day, also "Haunted Honeymoon" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Robert Montgomery and Constance Cummings.